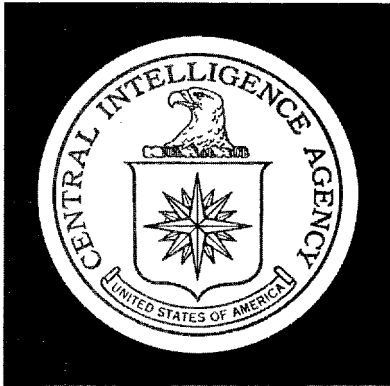


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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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3 June 1968

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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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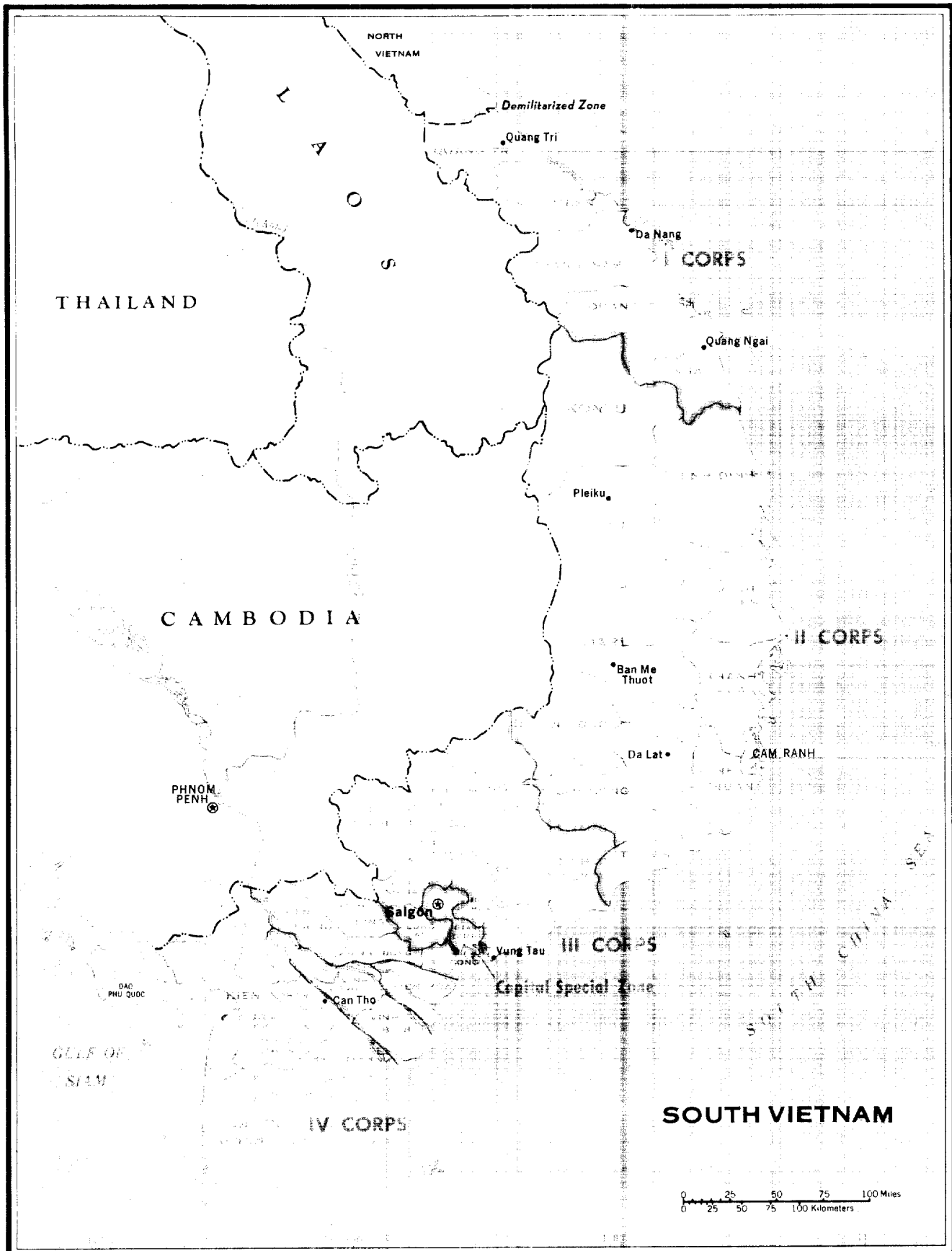
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[Vietnam:

South Vietnam: Sharp clashes continued in and around Saigon over the weekend while enemy activity slackened in the northern part of the country.

Although larger units trying to enter Saigon are still being engaged and driven back by allied forces operating on the capital's outskirts, the Communist tactic of infiltrating small bands which surface at dawn has resulted in several heavy day-time battles inside the city limits, especially in Cholon. The severe losses suffered by the national and local police hierarchy and elements of the city's military defense, as a result of a misdirected helicopter strike on 2 June against one of these enemy enclaves, could seriously disrupt police effectiveness for a time.

Some Viet Cong prisoners captured in the recent fighting claim to be from three battalions moved to the Saigon area from the delta. The prisoners state that their companies have been ordered to rotate combat with periods of withdrawal and rest so that the military and psychological pressure on the capital can be sustained over a period of two or three months.

Despite the respite in Communist ground action farther north, the enemy continues to conduct harassing mortar and rocket attacks against allied positions south of the Demilitarized Zone and in the western highlands.

North Vietnam: Hanoi, while still demanding an early cessation of all US bombing and other acts of war against the North, is indicating more explicitly that this need not be fully implemented before other issues can be discussed.

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[The more precise formula, spelled out in an authoritative article from the party daily broadcast by Hanoi radio on 1 June, states that the US "must first of all clearly acknowledge its responsibility to put a definitive and unconditional end to the bombing and all other acts of war...." Although clearly designed to increase pressure on the US to agree to a bombing halt, the new formula is actually consistent with other statements by North Vietnamese spokesmen in Paris and Hanoi that the talks must "determine" an end to the bombing before taking up other problems. (Map)]

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[France: Militant students continue to demonstrate against the government, but non-Communist union leaders foresee an end to the strike movement within the week.

According to Eugene Descamps, head of the Confederation of Democratic Workers, most agreements now under negotiation will be submitted to the workers for approval on Tuesday, and a general "back to work" movement is expected by Wednesday. Descamps did not anticipate that these agreements would be rejected by the rank and file because they contain improvements not in the "protocole d'accord" of 27 May. In the past two days all of the unions, including the Communist-led General Confederation of Labor, have been participating in or urging negotiations and a return to work. The government could still face serious problems if workers in some industries refused to end the strike, thus necessitating forcible eviction which could spark renewed militancy in labor circles.

A spirit of militancy continues to reign among many of the students, whose slogan is "the battle continues." "New left" student leader Daniel Cohn-Bendit, expelled from France but now illegally in the country, called for the formation of "action committees" to keep the mass protest alive. He also disparaged the forthcoming parliamentary elections. Despite his uncompromising stand, Cohn-Bendit termed premature the efforts of some militants, including expelled Communist Jean Pierre Vigier, to form a "revolutionary movement" linking students and workers. Although the students at this point apparently have no plan other than to continue demonstrating, they obviously feel isolated by the gradual return to normal and are intent on reviving flagging interest in their protest.

Already attention is turning away from students and strikers and toward the electoral campaign, which opens on 10 June. National Assembly President]

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[Jacques Chaban-Delmas reportedly has indicated that the Gaullist tactic in the election will be to exploit the fear of Communism rather than to appeal to the public to rally to De Gaulle personally. Chaban-Delmas also indicated that the new cabinet is merely a caretaker government and another major cabinet reorganization will take place after the elections. Minister of Information Guena publicly stated, however, that the cabinet would not be transitional provided the government wins a cohesive majority in the election.]

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Italy: Spreading student violence inspired by the French crisis adds to Italy's political problems.

Left-wing students continue to demonstrate against De Gaulle at the University of Rome, which has an enrollment of 65,000. Student disturbances had been reported earlier from Milan and Bari, and outbreaks now have taken place in Turin, Naples, and Florence. Extremist leaders in both Milan and Turin have recently returned from France. The major disturbances so far have not been directed against the Italian Government and have received little worker support.

Several political leaders have pointed to the threatened spread of instability from France as a reason to maintain a government coalition of Christian Democrats and the Unified Socialist Party (PSU). The PSU central committee nevertheless on 1 June confirmed a decision to withdraw the party from the government coalition. The decision takes effect when parliament convenes on 5 June.

The Christian Democratic Party is expected to form a one-party government, possibly replacing Premier Moro. The PSU probably would give parliamentary support to such a government while pressing for a firm commitment to move ahead on social reforms.

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Czechoslovakia: Party leader Dubcek further stamped the Czechoslovak regime with his own image at the four-day central committee plenum which ended on 1 June.

In a resolution which reflected many of the moderate Dubcek's views, the plenum reaffirmed that the party will implement its action program, but once more cautioned that time is required to solve the problems facing Czechoslovakia. The resolution stressed the leading role of the party and vowed to repel all attempts to discredit the party as a whole. It criticized those who are attempting to misuse the "democratization process," and set 9 September as the date for the extraordinary party congress which will elect a new central committee. Delegates to the congress will be elected in July by regional and municipal conferences.

Again reflecting the views of Dubcek, the plenum stressed the values of socialism for Czechoslovakia, but reported that "democracy is just as inseparable from socialism as socialism is from democracy." The central committee also repeated Dubcek's admonition that Czechoslovakia will not return to its old position.

The party reported that Prague is introducing "more initiative into Czechoslovak foreign policy," but avowed that Czechoslovakia's "independence, sovereignty, and security" depend on the firmness of its ties with the "friendly socialist countries, primarily with the Soviet Union." The ambiguity introduced by the use of "friendly" again points out that Prague's relations with some of the Warsaw Pact countries, notably East Germany, remain strained.

The plenum completed the process of removing several supporters of ex-party chief Novotny from their positions on central committee commissions. It also accepted the resignations of several other

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conservatives from the central committee itself, and that of Martin Vaculik from his alternate presidium post. The liberal-minded Zdenek Mlynar, who has recently advocated several far-reaching constitutional and legal changes, was elevated to party secretary and made chairman of the party's legal commission. Former premier Lenart was named to head the important ideological commission.

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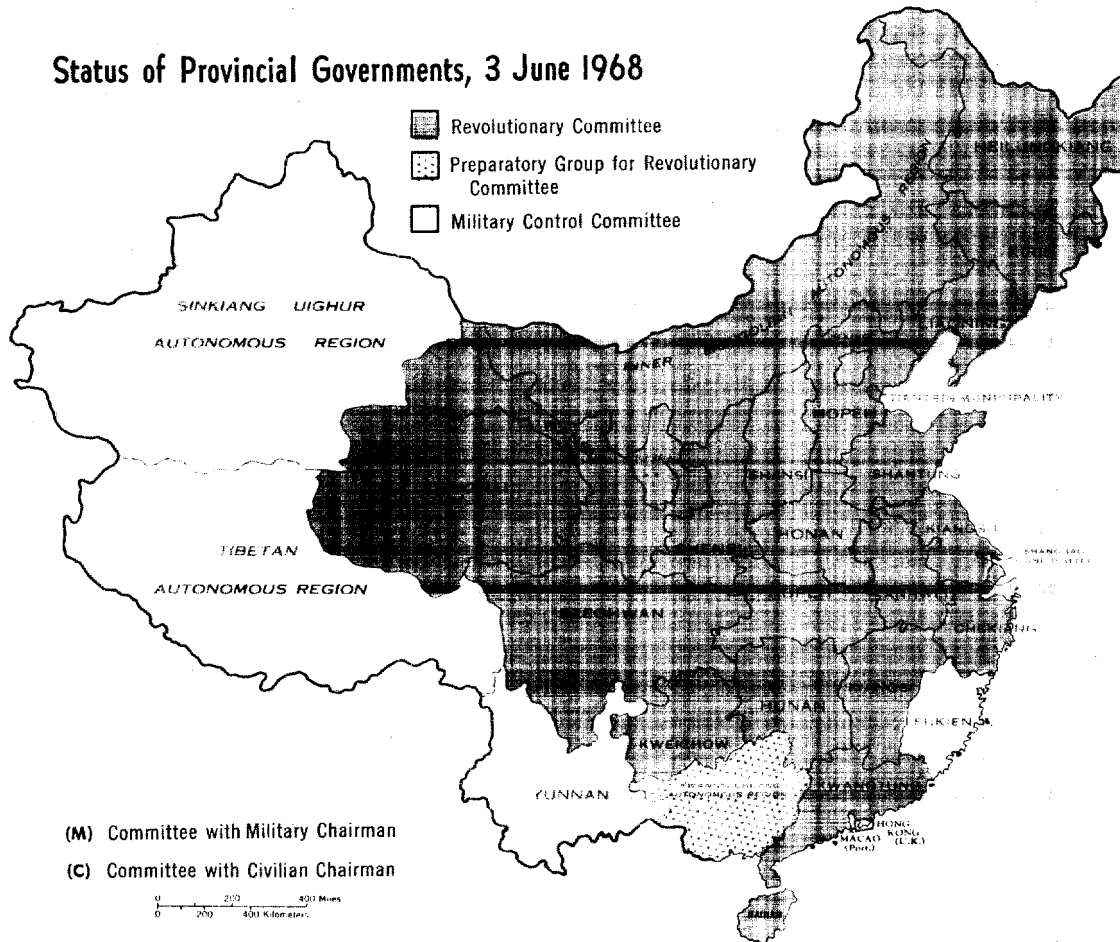
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Status of Provincial Governments, 3 June 1968



(M) Committee with Military Chairman
(C) Committee with Civilian Chairman

REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE

DATE OF FORMATION

Heilungkiang (C)	31 Jan. 1967
Shanghai (C)	5 Feb. 1967
Kweichow (M)	14 Feb. 1967
Shantung (C)	23 Feb. 1967
Shansi (C)	18 March 1967
Peking (C)	20 April 1967
Tsinghai (M)	12 Aug. 1967
Inner Mongolia (M)	1 Nov. 1967
Tientsin (C)	6 Dec. 1967
Kiangsi (M)	5 Jan. 1968
Kansu (M)	24 Jan. 1968

REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE

DATE OF FORMATION

Honan (C)	27 Jan. 1968
Hopeh (C)	3 Feb. 1968
Hupei (M)	5 Feb. 1968
Kwangtung (M)	21 Feb. 1968
Kirin (M)	6 March 1968
Kiangsu (M)	23 March 1968
Chekiang (M)	24 March 1968
Hunan (M)	9 April 1968
Ningsia (M)	10 April 1968
Anhwei (M)	18 April 1968
Shensi (C)	1 May 1968
Liaoning (M)	10 May 1968
Szechwan (M)	31 May 1968

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Communist China: The establishment of a provincial revolutionary committee on 31 May in Szechwan--the most troubled area in China--may reduce, but probably will not end, fighting in the province.

The rally of 500,000 in Chengtu was addressed by the chairman of the new revolutionary committee Chang Kuo-hua. Others who participated were vice chairmen Liang Hsing-chu, Li Ta-chang, Liu Chieh-ting, Chang Hsi-ting, Tien Pao, and Hsu Chih. Li Ta-chang, formerly governor and a party secretary of Szechwan Province, was paraded through the streets of Chengtu by Red Guards in January 1967. Although Red Guard material in March 1968 indicated he was being rehabilitated, it did not suggest he would end up ahead of radicals Liu Chieh-ting and his wife on the revolutionary committee. Liu and his wife were listed as three and four on the 7 May 1967 preparatory group.

Only five of China's 29 province-level units now remain without formal governing bodies. In some areas, the formation of a revolutionary committee has led to a significant reduction of violence; in others, such as Kwangtung, considerable fighting persists. Since political divisions in Szechwan have been particularly deep, it is unlikely that factionalism will be easily resolved. [REDACTED] (Map)

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Indonesia: The Indonesian Communist Party's provincial organization in Central Java, in contrast to party militants in East Java, supports the central committee in emphasizing party reconstruction rather than armed struggle.

The provincial committee has also stated that the situation in Central Java, once the area of the party's greatest numerical strength, differs considerably from that in East Java. More Communists were killed in East than in Central Java after the 1965 abortive coup, and therefore support for party militancy is greater in the eastern province.

East Java is the only area in which the Indonesian Communist Party has conducted a sustained paramilitary campaign. It has even established a haven in an isolated 20-square-mile region on the south coast of the province. Elsewhere in Java, political and geographic factors have permitted more effective army surveillance of party activities and have prevented the ascendancy of effective militant party elements.

A politburo meeting with provincial leaders, reportedly scheduled for July, may approve the use of armed action where there is some chance of success, but party rebuilding will probably continue to be the primary focus. [REDACTED]

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Sierra Leone: A hard anti-Western and especially anti-US line is being pressed by radicals around Prime Minister Stevens.

Elements in Stevens' government and party, which is dominated by Temne tribesmen, are pushing a story that the US, UK, and expatriate business firms are involved in a "plot" against the newly constituted regime. Army troops broke up a Peace Corps conference in Freetown on 1 June, and the conference notes, containing candid views of the volunteers on the host country, were confiscated. In addition, a youth leader in Stevens' party claims that demonstrations are planned against the US and UK embassies this week.

Stevens is under pressure from militants of his northern-based party to continue efforts to crush the power of the former ruling party which was dominated by southerners of the important Mende tribe. Although this party remains in his coalition "national" government, Stevens in a radiobroadcast on 31 May accused unspecified groups of "fomenting unrest" and asserted that "certain elements" were furnishing financial backing to these groups. The speech was followed by the arrest of approximately 20 leaders of the Mende-based party and Mende civil servants.

The regime reportedly has also exiled to London deputy army commander Genda, a Mende who along with several other Mende soldiers had been placed under detention by Temne troops on 29 May. In light of the undisciplined state of the army, the lack of an officer corps, and the increasing tribal tensions, a retaliatory move by Mende troops is a possibility.

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Meanwhile, a large number of unidentified men have arrived in Freetown to see Stevens. They could be Stevens' followers who reportedly received training in guerrilla warfare in nearby Guinea during the prime minister's recent period of exile there. Stevens may be contemplating using these elements as an adjunct to loyal Temne troops in case of a move by Mende troops.

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NOTE

Senegal: Calm has returned to Dakar, and the general strike called last week by the national labor union appears to have collapsed following the arrest of most of the union's top leaders. The position of the government was strengthened at a critical time by the importing of proregime militants from outside the capital and possibly also by the easing of the crisis in France which had sparked the agitation in Senegal. According to a radio announcement, the cabinet is to consider on 5 June the wide-ranging demands presented by the union early last month.

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